Getting Things Done for Utah
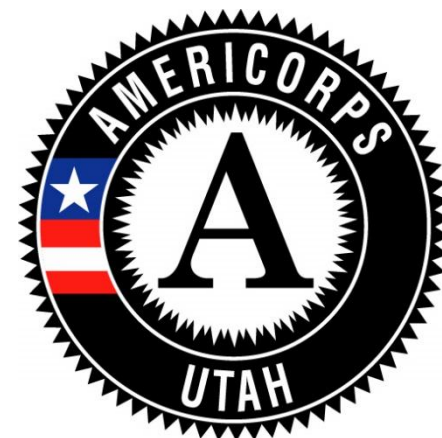## AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities

U Serve Utah
Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

UServeUtah Mission

The mission of the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism (UServeUtah) is to improve communities through the power of service and volunteerism.

As the state's central coordinating body for service and volunteerism. UServeUtah is responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining a vision and culture of civic engagement through national and community service within the state.

UServeUtah Objectives

- Build and Cultivate

  - Help organizations effectively use service and volunteerism as a strategy to fulfil their mission and address critical community problems.

- Promote and Inspire

  - Raise awareness of service and volunteerism needs in the state and identify quality volunteer and service opportunities.
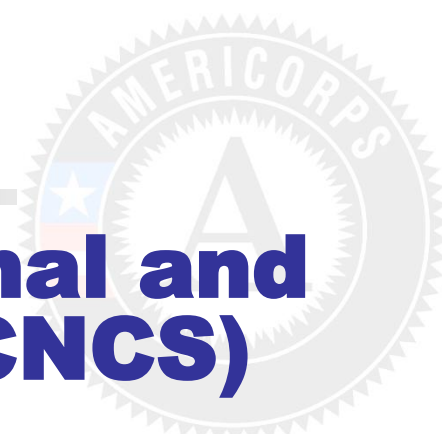
- Recognize

  - Recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers throughout Utah.

U Serve Utah
Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

- Federal agency that administers all National Service Programs

  - AmeriCorps (VISTA, NCCC, State&National)

  - Senior Corps (Senior Companions & Foster Grandparents)

  - Special Initiatives (Mayor's Day of Recognition, National Mentoring Month, etc.)

  - National Days of Service (MLK Day of Service & 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance)

- www.nationalservice.gov

AmeriCorps Purpose and Goals

"Improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering."

AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.**I am an AmeriCorps member and I will Get Things Done!**

![U Serve Utah - Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism]

AmeriCorps*State

★ Largest AmeriCorps program – 80,000 members serving annually

★ Provides grants to schools, nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations to operate AmeriCorps programs

★ Most of the funding for these programs is administered by Governor-appointed state service commissions (UServeUtah) in each state

★ Members engage in direct service activities designed to address locally-identified compelling community needs

★ Projects must enhance an organization's mission, and cannot duplicate or supplant pre-existing activities, staff or volunteers.

★ Should focus on at least one of the six CNCS focus areas

AmeriCorps*VISTA

★ VISTA = Volunteers In Service To America

★ Helps individuals and communities implement grassroots solutions designed to alleviate poverty

★ Members serve full time for a year

★ Funding comes directly from CNCS

★ Behind the scenes, capacity-building (Recruiting volunteers, raising funds, managing projects, etc.)

AmeriCorps*NCCC

★ NCCC = National Civilian Community Corps

★ Program for men & women ages 18 – 24

★ Members serve full-time for 10 months

★ Serve in teams of 10-14

★ Based out of three regional campuses across the country

★ Take on a series of 6 – 8 week projects across their region relative to conservation, revitalization, homeland security, disaster preparedness, and other areas

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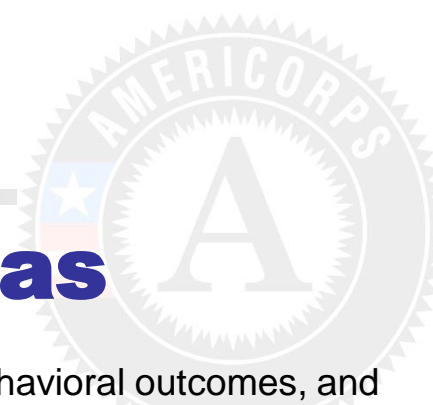
2015 CNCS Focus Areas

★ **Education -** Improve school readiness, education and behavioral outcomes, and preparation for successful post-secondary degree attainment for economically disadvantaged youth.

★ **Environmental Stewardship –** Support increase citizen behavioral changes in environmental stewardship, including: Increased energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, or improving at-risk ecosystems.

★ **Veterans and Military Families –** Engage Veterans in service and support the needs of veterans, active duty personnel, and family of deployed military personnel.

★ **Healthy Futures –** Address health care needs within communities, including: access to health care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity.

★ **Economic Opportunity –** Promote and foster economic opportunity for economically disadvantaged individuals within communities through financial literacy, housing assistance and job training.

★ **Disaster Services -** Increase resiliency and capacity of communities and individuals to prepare for, respond to, recover from disasters.

# Compelling Community Needs

AmeriCorps programs address diverse community needs including, but not limited to:

★ Improving graduation and degree attainment rates (education)
★ Reducing youth obesity rates (healthy futures)
★ Invasive weed removal (environmental stewardship)
★ Improving school performance (education)
★ Reducing homelessness by helping individuals/families secure safe & affordable housing (economic opportunity)
★ Disaster and first-aid education (disaster preparedness)
★ Providing counseling for veterans (veteran & military Families)
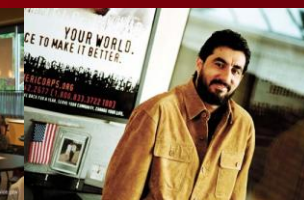
![U Serve Utah – Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism]

AmeriCorps Grants

★ Grants provide *partial* funding to organizations to support AmeriCorps programs

★ Programs must meet minimum match requirements

★ Funds are not for general organizational expenses.

★ Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses, such as member living allowance and benefits, member & staff training, supervision, supplies and evaluation.

★ Organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.

Minimum Match Requirement

Overall Minimum Program Match Requirement

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Minimum Overall Share	24%	24%	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%

Eligibility for an AmeriCorps Grant

★ Non-profit organizations
- Community/Regional/Statewide
- Faith-based
- Secular

★ Government
- State/County/Local

★ Education
- Districts
- Private
- Higher Ed
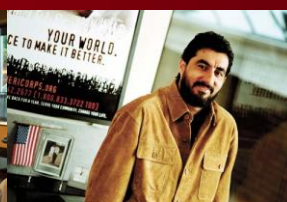
![U Serve Utah — Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism]

AmeriCorps Grant Opportunities

⟶Operational Grant – sound program design and implementation strategy identified; clearly articulated member responsibilities, activities, training, supervision, evaluation, organizational history and capacity, sustainability plans, and fund management.

⟶Fixed-Amount – grantees will receive an award for specific amount per MSY; no match required and no approved budget.

⟶Education Award Program (EAP) – awarded a small grant of funding and use their own resources for the members' living allowance and program costs.

Benefits of an AmeriCorps Grant

★ Expands the capacity of organizations to meet identified critical community needs.

★ Provides funds to support program administration, access to training and technical assistance resources, and entrance into a national network of organizations.

★ Allows organizations to recruit individuals from the community to serve as AmeriCorps members.

★ AmeriCorps members gain skills, experience, and an education award to be used to further their education or repay student loans.

★ Members and volunteers gain a better understanding of community needs/challenges and how to solve them.
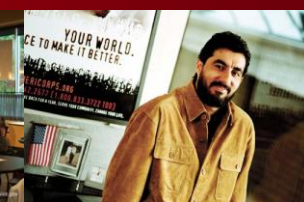
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What is an AmeriCorps Member?

★ An individual enrolled for an intensive term of service (300-1700 hours per year) in an AmeriCorps program

★ U.S. citizen, U.S. national or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States

★ At least 17 years of age (no upper age limit)

★ Not replacing a volunteer or a staff person

★ AmeriCorps members receive an Education Award for successful completion of a term of service

★ Most AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, full-time members are eligible for health insurance, and some members may be eligible for childcare

AmeriCorps Member Activities

Member activities might include:

★ Tutoring/mentoring elementary students

★ Connecting families to adequate healthcare

★ Assisting families with securing safe/affordable housing

★ Assisting veterans with seeking employment

★ Providing educational enrichment programs for youth

★ Developing and conducting environmental education

★ Conducting community awareness programs
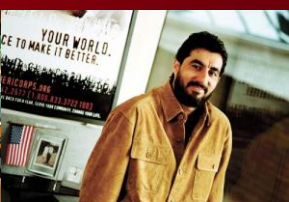
★ Implementing nutrition and physical activity programs
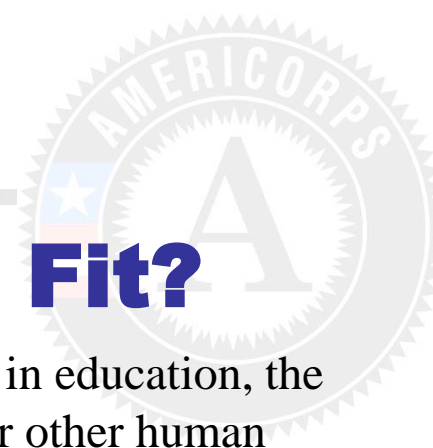
Is AmeriCorps a Good Fit?

★ Does my organization address compelling needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, or other human needs?

★ Would this program support my organization's mission and strategic plan or the needs?

★ What will be the change in the community as a result of the presence of AmeriCorps members?

★ Will this program offer services not already offered in the community?

★ Does my organization have the organizational, technological and fiscal capacity to manage a federal grant?
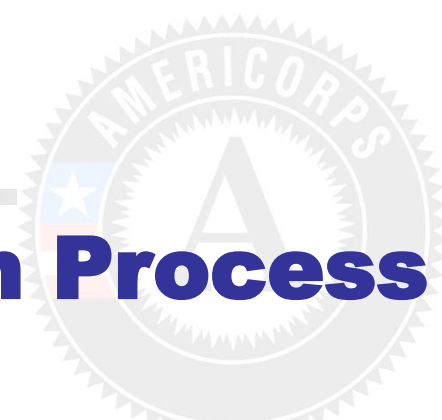
2015-2016 Application Process

UServeUtah uses a multi-step application process.

★ Concept Paper - The purpose of the Concept Paper is to allow applicants the opportunity to present their proposed program, justifying potential community impact, and organizational capacity to manage an AmeriCorps Program.

★ AmeriCorps Full Committee and Peer Review

★ Invitation to submit a full application - full application proposal and process will include:

  – Revising the Concept Paper in preparation for submission to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).
  – Editing and clarifying program details for CNCS compliance.
  – Submission of Full Applications to UServeUtah for Competitive or Formula Process funding.

U Serve Utah
Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

2015-2016 Application Timeline

★ RFP Notification Info to stakeholders – February 23, 2015

★ RFP Outreach Workshops – March 30-April 10, 2015

★ Notice of Intent to Apply to Commission – April 20, 2015

★ Concept Paper submitted to Commission – May 22, 2015 by 5:00 PM

★ Formula Grant Review Period – May 2015

★ Final Decision Letters to Applicants – June 30, 2015

★ Program Begin Operations – Fall 2015

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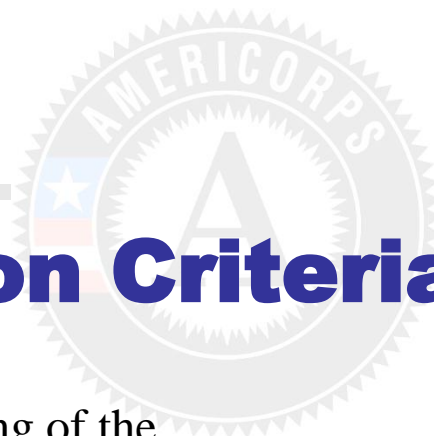
AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ <u>Applications must submit a Concept Paper, consisting of the following components, containing no more than 15 pages.</u>
- Title Page (1 page)
- Executive Summary (1 page)
- Program Narrative (10 pages)
- Performance Measurement Worksheet (3 pages)
- Budget Proposal Worksheet (pages not counted)

<u>Other Required Documents</u>
- Most recent audit report or year end financial review
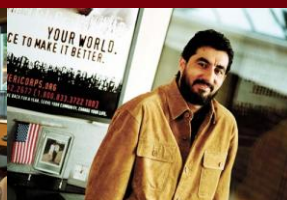- General Assessment Questionnaire (http://heritage.utah.gov/userveutah/americorps-nofa)

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ **Program Design (60%)**

– Community Need (30%)

• Clearly describe the need

• Why was it chosen?

• Data justifying resources for the community need

• Describe target community

• Why was it chosen?

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ **Program Design (60%)**

– Member Utilization (25%)

- What activities will the member perform?

- Why do you need AmeriCorps members?

- What is the number of members requested? (Must be a minimum of 10 MSY)

- What types of member slots & why?

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ **Program Design (60%)**

– Program Impact (30%)

• Expected change in attitude/behavior/condition/skill

• Evidence Based

• What will be measured

• Measurement tools

• Evaluation

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ **Program Design (60%)**

  – Member Experience (15%)

  • Powerful service experience

  • Increase in lifelong civic engagement

  • Connectivity with other AC members

  • AmeriCorps Identity

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ **Program Design (60%)**

  – Other items to include

  • How does your program link outcomes to the need?

  – Need ⟶ Intervention ⟶ Members/Activities ⟶ Anticipated Outcomes

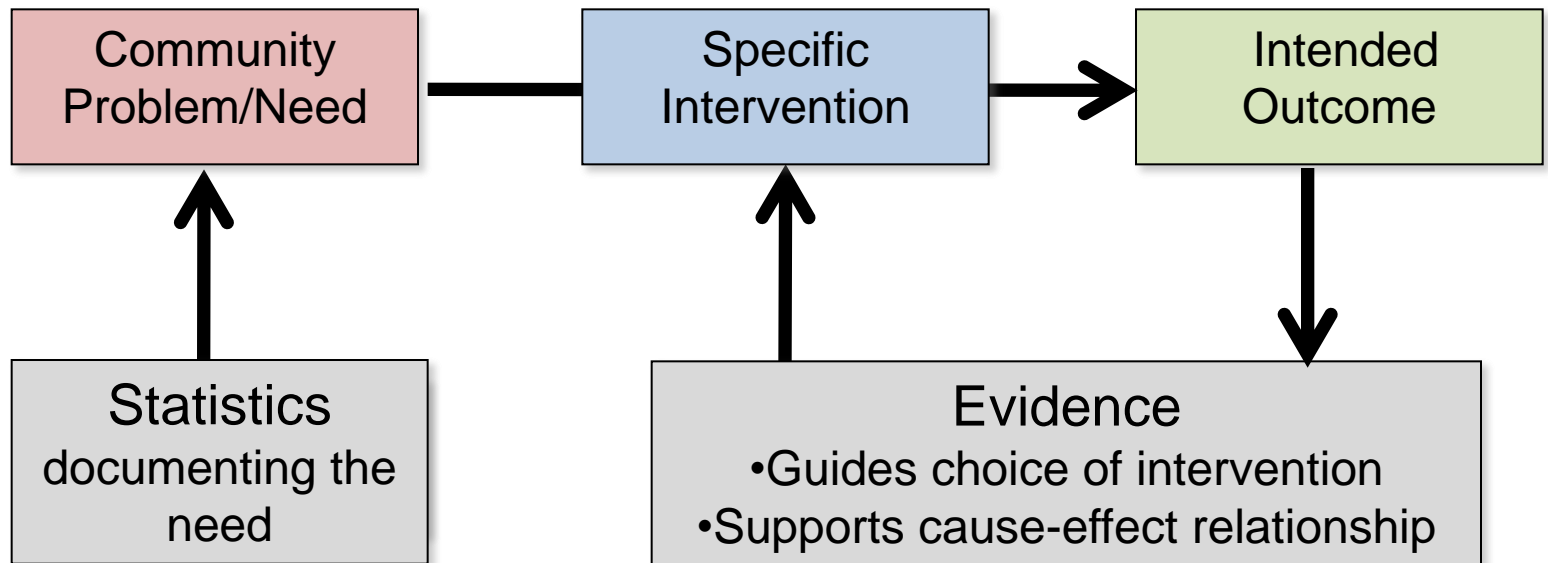 • Volunteer Generation – Recruiting and maintaining volunteers

Theory of Change Model

Shifting our focus from "what we are doing" to "what we want to achieve"

Community Problem/Need	→	Specific Intervention	→	Intended Outcome

Statistics documenting the need

Evidence
- Guides choice of intervention
- Supports cause-effect relationship

Theory of Change Model

Community Problem/Need	Specific Intervention	Intended Outcome
What is the issue you are addressing? Why is it important? Why does it need to be addressed now?	What will you do to achieve your intended outcome? What tools and resources are needed? How will you implement this intervention?	What do you expect the community change to be? How will you measure and monitor it?

Statistics
What figures do you have that define the community problem/need?

Evidence
• Guides choice of specific intervention
• Results from specific intervention
• Supports cause-effect relationship

Theory of Change - Education

Children reading below grade level in 3rd grade

→

Individualized tutoring 3 times/week for 20 min on five "building block" literacy skills through reading, writing and verbal communication activities

→

Students are able to read at 3rd grade level (as measured by 3rd grade reading exam)

Statistics

Statistics on the number of students at below grade level in program's service area; Research on why reading proficiency by 3rd grade is important.

Evidence

Research on building block skills leading to reading proficiency. Research on design, frequency, duration of tutoring sessions.
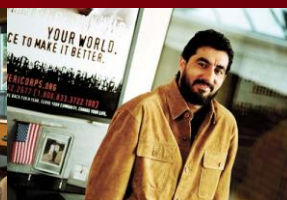
AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ **Organizational Capacity (25%)**

– Sound Organizational Structure

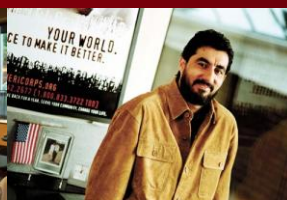– Success in Securing Community Support

– Compliance & Accountability
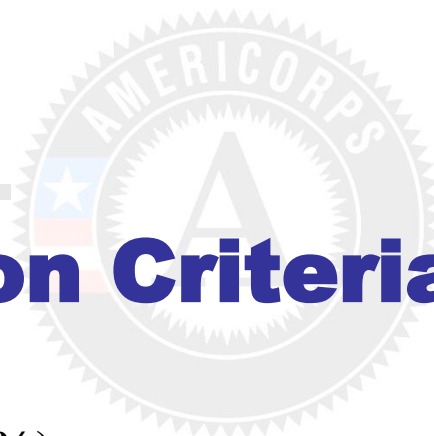
AmeriCorps Application Criteria

★ **Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (15%)**

– Clear, reasonable and cost-effective

– Budget aligns with application narrative

– Ability to meet minimum match requirement

Questions

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For More Information

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